

NEWS TODAY

Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) Operationalizes Central Processing Centre to facilitate Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)

- CPC has been established for **centralised processing of regulatory compliance forms** filed under **Companies Act** and **Limited Liability Partnership Act**.
 - ⊕ It will **process applications in time bound and faceless manner** on lines of **Central Registration Centre (CRC)** and **Centralized Processing for Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)**.
 - ◆ **CRC** provides services for **speedy incorporation of companies** whereas **C-PACE** provides centralised processing of applications for **voluntary closure of companies**.
- **EoDB** refers to simplicity, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of setting-up, operating, and closure of businesses in a particular territory.
- **Focus areas of EoDB reforms include -**
 - ⊕ **Simplification** of procedures related to applications, renewals, inspections, filing records, etc.,
 - ⊕ **Rationalization** by repealing, amending, or subsuming redundant laws,
 - ⊕ **Digitization** by creating online interfaces eliminating manual forms and records, and
 - ⊕ **Decriminalization** of minor technical or procedural defaults.
- **Significance of EoDB reforms**
 - ⊕ **Economic growth:** Through improved resource allocation, enhanced competitiveness to boost innovation, etc.
 - ⊕ **Foreign investment:** Through reduced bureaucratic hurdles, improved transparency to reduce perceived risks for investors, etc.
 - ⊕ **Social development:** By promoting inclusivity and providing opportunities for marginalized communities to participate in economic activities.

Initiatives taken for EoDB reforms

- **Labour Law reforms:** 29 Central Labour Laws amalgamated & rationalized into 4 labour codes.
- **Foreign investment reforms:** Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIF Portal), etc.
- **Business Reform Action Plan 2022**, for States/ UTs, comprising of two parts –
 - ⊕ **Action Plan A (Business Centric reforms):** National Single Window System, etc.
 - ⊕ **Action Plan B (Citizen Centric reforms):** Online Single Window, Certificates, etc.

Global Pulses Conference (GPC) urges India to augment Production of Pulses to meet Nutritional requirements

- **GPC is an annual global meet** organized by **Global Pulse Confederation** which represents all segments of pulse industry value chain including growers, researchers, traders, government bodies, etc.
 - ⊕ India is represented by **India Pulses and Grains Association** in Global Pulse Confederation.
- **Pulses are a type of leguminous crops that are harvested solely for dry seeds.** e.g., Chickpeas, Pigeon peas, etc.
 - ⊕ Pulses are **20 to 25% protein by weight** which is double the protein content of wheat.
- **Pulses production in India**
 - ⊕ Globally, India is **largest producer (25%), consumer (27%), and importer (14%)** of pulses.
 - ⊕ **Chickpea and Pigeon pea constitute ~ 60% of all pulses**, both by area cultivated and by production.
 - ⊕ **Cultivated in both Kharif and Rabi (over 60% of total production)** seasons.
 - ◆ **MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and UP** are major pulses producing States.
- **Significance of Pulses:** Improved soil health through Nitrogen fixation, diet diversification to address malnutrition, etc.
- **Issues with Pulses production in India**
 - ⊕ **Production:** Considered residual crop, grown under rain-fed conditions with limited nutrient management, etc.
 - ⊕ **Market:** Price volatility due to 'Cobweb' phenomenon, inadequate warehousing facilities, etc.
 - ⊕ **Policy:** Limited focus on R&D on pulses, not the beneficiaries of Green Revolution, etc.

Initiatives taken for promotion of Pulses

- **National Food Security Mission - Pulses** launched in 2016-17.
- **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)** to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for Pulses.
- **Rainfed Area Development Programme**
- **Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize**, etc.

NITI Aayog released a Report titled 'Senior Care Reforms in India - Reimagining the Senior Care Paradigm: A Position Paper'

- Report highlights landscape of senior care services available, as well as gaps and challenges in current senior care ecosystem to recognize evolving medical and non-medical needs of seniors.
- **Status of Elderly in India**
 - ⊕ Currently, elderly comprise ~10% of population which is projected to reach 19.5% by 2050.
 - ⊕ 75% of elderly have one or more chronic diseases (Longitudinal Ageing Study of India 2021 report).
 - ⊕ 70% of elderly population is dependent for everyday maintenance and 78% is living without any pension cover.
- **Key Challenges and Recommendations highlighted in the report**

Dimensions	Challenges	Recommendations
Health	Lack of comprehensive and integrated package of services, paucity of trained manpower, lack of evidence-backed geriatric diseases knowledge repository, etc.	Focus on preventive interventions like adult immunization, ensure palliative and long-term healthcare services, promote R&D in geriatric care, etc.
Social	Fragmented and narrow social support system, changing family structure and loss of social support, neglect of contributions of care workers, etc.	Comprehensive social security system, promote community-based support, strengthen assisted-living facilities, etc.
Economic	Insufficient financial literacy, deficient support in lifetime financial planning, financial abuse and fraud, etc.	Create occupational opportunities to utilize experience and expertise, design special health insurance products, etc.
Digital	Insufficient access to digital goods, paucity of digital training modules for elderly, etc.	Enhance ease & safety of digital operation, develop enabling digital infrastructure, etc.

US House passes bill titled 'Strengthening the Quad Act'

- **Key Provisions of Bill**
 - ⊕ Directs the US State Department to enact a strategy for increasing engagement and cooperation with the Quad.
 - ⊕ Seeks to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate cooperation between members.
- **About Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)**
 - ⊕ Quad is an informal forum of like-minded countries comprising the USA, India, Australia and Japan.
 - ◆ Origin can be traced back to Quad collaboration in 2004 Tsunami rescue operations in the Indian Ocean region.
 - ◆ The first Quad Leaders' Summit took place in 2021.
 - ⊕ It commits member countries to work as a force for global good and to support an open, free, and inclusive Indo-Pacific that is prosperous and resilient.
- **Importance for India**
 - ⊕ Through the Quad, India can counterbalance China's growing presence in the Indo-Pacific region, including its BRI (Belt and Road Initiative).
 - ⊕ With the Quad, India can rise above its middle-power status and project its influence beyond the Indo-Pacific.
 - ⊕ Its informality provides in-built flexibility and allows members to pursue their foreign policy interests while enjoying the benefits of cooperation.

Key initiatives by QUAD



Six Leader level Working Groups are established for Climate, Critical and Emerging Technologies, Cyber, Health Security Partnership, Infrastructure and Space.



Launched Vision Statement in 2023 which is centred around theme 'Enduring Partners for the Indo-Pacific'.



Quad Debt Management Resource Portal to address challenges of unsustainable debt financing.



Quad Investors' Network (QUIN) as a private sector-led platform to facilitate investments in strategic technologies.



Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP), 2022 to enhance climate and clean energy cooperation.

“Law on Matrimonial Issues Relating to Non-Resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI)” report submitted

- Report was submitted by the **Law Commission of India (LCI)**.
- **Key issues highlighted**
 - ⊖ **Lack of regulation**
 - ◆ There exist no law governing marriages **with NRIs**.
 - ◆ **There is no central legislation** prescribing **compulsory registration of marriages**.
 - ⊖ **Rising trend of fraudulent matrimony**
 - ◆ Such marriages **between NRIs and Indians** leave Indian spouses, **particularly women**, vulnerable to **domestic violence, abandonment, ex-parte divorce, etc.**
 - » Ex-parte divorce is **initiated in a foreign court** without the knowledge/consent of Indian spouse.
 - ⊖ **Difficulty in legal assistance:** Inter-country nature of marriages makes it difficult for Indian spouses to seek legal recourse.
- **Key recommendations:**
 - ⊖ **Enact comprehensive law: Broaden NRI Bill, 2019:**
 - ◆ to cover **divorce, maintenance, and child support, and**
 - ◆ make it applicable to **OCIs, and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) apart from the NRIs**.
 - ⊖ **Compulsory registration in India**
 - ◆ Registration should contain **information** of social security number, passport particulars, ID card etc., **to build a proper identification and tracking system**.
 - ◆ **Failure to register such a marriage** should attract **finest or imprisonment**.
 - ◆ Law will be given an **overriding effect on all other laws**.

About OCIs, PIOs and NRIs

- **NRIs** are **Indian citizens** living abroad, **OCIs and PIOs** are **foreign citizens** whose Indian origin is legally recognised, and by which certain privileges are extended to them.
- **PIO and OCI Card Scheme** were merged in 2015.
- Therefore, the Government of India has decided to **discontinue the issuance of any new PIO card**.

Economic Nationalism is quintessentially fundamental to our economic growth: Vice-President

- Economic Nationalism is conventionally seen as an ideology which favours **domestic control of the economy, labour and capital formation**.
 - ⊖ **Unlike globalisation** which promotes interdependence among nations, economic nationalists favour tariffs to **restrict free trade, promote indigenous industries and seek import substitution**.
- **Benefits of Economic Nationalism**
 - ⊖ Helps **protect domestic market**, particularly in the nascent stage of nation-building. For example,
 - ◆ After independence, **India adopted Import Substitution** for self-reliant economy.
 - ◆ India still **reserves certain items** for **public procurement from MSEs**.
 - ⊖ **Prevents drain of foreign exchange** caused by imports.
 - ⊖ Facilitates **local employment by promoting** domestic businesses including MSMEs.
- **Concerns associated with economic nationalism**
 - ⊖ Protectionist policies **stifle innovation** by lowering competition from foreign businesses.
 - ◆ e.g., prolonged protectionism led to the **Economic crisis in India in the 1990s** that prompted 1991 economic reforms.
 - ⊖ May lead to **trade wars, imperialism and conflicts** as was seen during the 20th century.
 - ⊖ Economic isolation can lead to **political and cultural isolation**.

Economic nationalism in India

- In **pre-independence India**, economic nationalism was manifested in the **economic critique of colonial rule** and the **swadeshi movement**.
- Recent initiatives like **Vocal for Local, Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat**, etc. can be clubbed under the broader idea of Economic nationalism.
 - ⊖ However, they **lack an insular approach** and are **not against the ethos of globalisation**.

Also in News



Cartosat-2

- ISRO confirmed successful de-orbiting and atmospheric re-entry of Cartosat-2 at its end-of-life.
- **About Cartosat-2**
 - ⊖ Launched in **2007**.
 - ⊖ **Advanced remote sensing satellite** capable of providing scene-specific spot imagery.
- **De-orbiting of Cartosat-2:** ISRO lowered its perigee (point in the orbit of a satellite at which it is nearest to the earth) using leftover fuel to comply with international guidelines on space debris mitigation.
 - ⊖ It represents a significant step for ISRO in ensuring **long-term sustainability of outer space activities**.



Pandaram lands

- **Lakshadweep** administration continues to number trees on **Pandaram lands**.
- Laccadive Minicoy and Amini Islands Land Revenue and Tenancy Regulation, 1965 defines **Pandaram lands** as
 - ⊖ land in which **Government has, a proprietary right** immediately before the commencement of this Regulation and
 - ⊖ includes **any land in which government may acquire such rights** under this Regulation or under any other law.
- **Land other than pandaram land** over which a person has proprietary rights under the customary law of the Islands are defined as "jenmam land" under the 1965 regulation.



Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan

- 6th regional dialogue of officials of security councils and National Security Advisers on Afghanistan was held in **Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)**.
 - Key participants include **India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**.
- The regional dialogue of security officials has emerged as an important mechanism for **assessing the situation in Afghanistan after the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban** in 2021.
 - India hosted the 3rd regional security dialogue** in New Delhi in November 2021.



Indian Skimmer

- India and Bangladesh submit a joint proposal to list Indian skimmers (also known as Indian scissors bill) under the **Convention on Migratory Species**.
- About Indian Skimmer**
 - Indian skimmer is found in the coastal estuaries of western and eastern India. It occurs primarily on **larger, sandy, lowland rivers, around lakes and adjacent marshes, estuaries and coasts**.
 - It **breeds colonially** on large, exposed sand-bars and islands.
 - It **feeds** on surface-dwelling fish, small crustaceans and insect larvae.
- Protection Status**
 - IUCN Red List:** Endangered
 - CITES:** Not listed



Nohar irrigation project

- Project, **supplying water in Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan**, is expected to get a boost with **repairing of Ferozpur feeder in neighbouring Punjab**.
- Project **utilizes Rajasthan's share in Ravi and Beas waters**.
- Based on a **1981 agreement** between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on re-allocation of surplus Ravi-Beas waters.
- Significance**
 - Aims to bring **desert land under irrigation** in northern part of Rajasthan.
 - Help **slow down and reverse degradation of environment** due to wind erosion, etc.



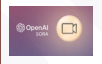
Amphipods

- Researchers have discovered a **new species of marine amphipod** in **Odisha's Chilika Lake** (Asia's biggest brackish water lagoon).
 - The species, named as '**Parhyale**' odian, is brown, has 13 pairs of legs, and uses the first pair for capturing prey.
- Amphipods are **crustacea**.
 - Crustaceans are a very **large group of Arthropods** which include crabs, lobsters, crayfish, shrimp, krill, etc.
 - They are **invertebrates with a hard exoskeleton and a segmented body that is bilaterally symmetrical**.
 - They are mostly **free-living freshwater or marine animals**, but some are terrestrial (e.g. woodlice).



Char Areas

- Chief Minister of Assam announced that land within **char areas would be surveyed** under **Mission Basundhara 4.0**.
 - Mission Basundhara is **land management initiative** of Assam government.
- About Char Areas**
 - Char/ Chapori** is **local name for riverine areas (island)** of the river Brahmaputra.
 - Char areas are subjected to erosion on their upstream and deposition on the downstream**, due to which they migrate downstream.
 - The **constant threat from flood and erosion** also creates developmental issues.



Sora

- Sora is a **new Generative AI (Gen-AI) model**, developed by **OpenAI**, which can **convert text prompt into Video**.
 - It can generate videos up to a minute long while **maintaining visual quality and adherence to the user's prompt**.
- It is significant owing to added **complexity of analyzing moving objects in 3D space**.
- Gen-AI** refers to category of AI algorithms that **generate new outputs based on data they have been trained on**.
 - It uses a **type of deep learning** called **generative adversarial networks**.

Personality in news



U Tirot Sing (1802 - 1835)

- Khasi freedom fighter **U Tirot Sing's statue** was unveiled in Dhaka.
- About U Tirot Sing**
 - Also known as **U Tirot Sing Syiem**, was a **Khasi chief in early 19th century**.
 - Drew lineage from **Syiemlieh clan**.
- Key contributions**
 - Declared war and fought against British** for attempts to take over control of the Khasi Hills.
 - In **Anglo-Khasi war (1829-33)**, he used **guerilla tactics** to evade and strike the militarily superior colonial forces.
- Eventually captured by British in January 1833 and **deported to Dhaka**.
- Values:** Patriotism, Courage, Determination, Leadership, etc.

